

Serial No. 09/709,616

Claim 1 (currently amended). A thermally-integrated water-gas shift reactor for converting reformat gases including carbon monoxide in the presence of steam to form carbon dioxide and water comprising, in combination,

a) a centrally located waste-heat recovery steam generator for the recovery of exothermic reaction heat to generate steam,

b) an outer region defined between inner and outer wall surfaces and extending at least part way about said waste-heat recovery steam generator,

c) a packed catalyst bed located within said outer region, and through which reformat gases flow, all of said bed catalyst extending only helically and about the steam generator, the volume between said inner and outer wall surfaces being filled with said packed catalyst, there being flow guide surfaces extending helically adjacent the catalyst between said inner and outer cylindrical surfaces to which said guide surfaces are connected, to direct all gases to flow only helically through ~~the helical bed the~~ catalyst between said inner and outer wall surfaces, said catalyst being separated from the flow guide surfaces, the ~~bed~~ catalyst located entirely outside the

generator, said ~~bed~~ catalyst being ~~a single bed and~~
continuous in the helical direction of guided flow
about the steam generator located centrally in the
reactor[[.]], and

d) the outer region being in heat transfer
communication with the steam generator and operating to
maintain the catalyst ~~bed~~ within a predetermined
temperature range for operation of a water-gas shift
reaction producing said exothermic reaction heat.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The combination of
claim 1 wherein the waste heat steam generator operates
at temperatures in one of the following ranges: 360°F
to 450°F, and 385°F to 400°F, that is optimum for
conducting the water-gas shift reaction.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The combination of claim
1 wherein said ~~bed~~ catalyst includes a Cu/Zn catalyst
which is contained in volumetric space defined by said
outer region[[,]] ~~and there being an inner wall~~
~~adjacent said space and that is in thermal contact with~~
~~a boiling water fluid in said generator.~~

Serial No. 09/709,616

Claim 4 (currently amended). The combination of claim 3 wherein the boiling water fluid is located proximate the ~~bed~~ catalyst to heat the ~~bed~~ catalyst during start-up.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The combination of claim 3 wherein the catalyst ~~bed~~ extends helically about said waste heat recovery steam generator to transfer heat to the boiling water fluid.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). The combination of claim ~~2~~ 1 ~~including inner and outer walls for defining annular space, containing said helical bed, and~~ wherein the flow guide surfaces comprise a helical coil at said space to conduct and increase the velocity of the gases as they flow helically through the catalyst ~~helical bed~~ and to enhance the rate of heat transfer to and from the catalyst ~~bed~~, said space being between 1 and 2 inches wide to minimize temperature differentials between the outer and inner walls, and wherein the gases have hourly space velocity in the range of 500hr⁻¹ to 2000hr⁻¹.

Serial No. 09/709,616

Claim 8 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 wherein the catalyst ~~bed~~ is ~~sufficiently close~~ proximate to said generator to be maintained in one of the following temperature ranges: between 370°F and 550°F, and between 400°F and 450°F.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The combination of claim 3 ~~including an outside wall spaced from said wall, and~~ wherein the space between said ~~walls~~ wall surfaces is between 1 and 2 inches wide to minimize temperature differentials between the ~~outside~~ outer and ~~inside~~ inner wall surfaces ~~walls~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The combination of claim 3 wherein the ~~bed~~ catalyst has a helical length characterized in that the gases have an hourly space velocity in the range of 500hr⁻¹ to 2000hr⁻¹.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 wherein the waste heat steam generator contains one or more heat transfer conduits that transfer heat from waste heat combustion products to a boiling water fluid in the generator for the purpose of generating steam.

Serial No. 09/709,616

Claim 12 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 wherein ~~the steam generator includes an upright vessel,~~ said outer region ~~having~~ has an upper level inlet flowing reformat gases into the catalyst ~~bed,~~ the reformat gases including carbon monoxide, and said region ~~having~~ has a lower level outlet, a heat transfer conduit or conduits extending within said vessel and immersed within boiling water contained in said vessel inwardly of said catalyst bed, said conduit or conduits operable for transfer of heat to the boiling water, for generating steam exiting from said vessel.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).